Urban District Council
OF ELLAND.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR 1910.

Elland,

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1911.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Elland.

Gentlemen,

In presenting this my Twenty-fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District, I wish to place on record the great loss which the town has sustained by the lamented death of our late Chairman, Mr. Hyde Sharratt; his loss will be especially felt by your officials to whom he always shewed the greatest kindness and consideration.

The vital statistics for the year 1910 are not quite as satisfactory as for some previous years, and I think they pretty accurately reflect the amount of sickness that prevailed; this I feel certain has not been owing to any slackness in enforcing the Public Health Acts, or in the efforts that you are always making to gradually improve the Sanitary condition of the district, but probably to adverse climatic conditions.

As a census of the people is to be taken in a few weeks I estimate the population on which the following rates are based as 10,550, the same as for the previous year. At the same time I feel that if this estimate errs, it must be certainly on the low side as at the census of 1901 the population was 10,412, and the town has considerably increased in size since then, but we must remember that the number of persons per house is not as great as formerly.

162 Births were registered during the year, 83 of which were males and 79 females, at the rate of 15·35 per 1000 as compared with 24·8 for England and Wales, and this latter is the lowest ever recorded. In my first two Annual Reports, for 1886 and 1887, the birth rates were 30·87 and 31·8 respectively, therefore although the town is increasing in size, the population is not increasing in the same proportion. Of the births registered only 3 were illegitimate. I would here quote the words of that great statesman, the Ex-President of the United States of America, Mr. Roosevelt, who in addressing a sister Republic last year, said :—

> "The first essential in any civilisation is that the man and the woman shall be father and mother of healthy children, so that the race shall increase and not decrease. If this is not so, if through no fault of the society there is failure to increase, it is a great misfortune. If the failure is due to deliberate and wilful fault, then it is not merely a misfortune, it is one of those crimes of ease and self-indulgence, of shrinking from pain and effort and risk, which in the long run Nature punishes more heavily than any other. If we of the great Republics, if we, the free people who claim to have emancipated ourselves from the thraldom of wrong and error, bring down on our heads the curse that comes upon the wilfully barren, then it will be an idle waste of breath to prattle of our achievements, to boast of all that we have done. No refinement of life, no delicacy of taste, no material progress, no sordid heaping up of riches, no sensuous development of art and literature, can in any way compensate for the loss of the great fundamental virtues; and of these great fundamental virtues the greatest is the race's power to perpetuate the race."

137 Deaths occurred in the district during the year at the rate of 12·98 per 1000, this is rather above the average for the previous 9 years which was 12·38. 17 deaths of residents occurred in Public Institutions beyond the district, making a total of 154, at the rate of 14·59 per 1000 as compared with 13·4 for England and Wales, this latter being the lowest ever recorded. Of the deaths registered 7 were due to the principal Zymotic diseases, viz.: 5 from Measles and 1 each from Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa, at the rate of 0·66 as compared with 0·99 for the rest of the Country.

TABLE 1.

Showing Mortality at subjoined ages.

At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in public Institutions in district
154	17	10	7	10	53	57	0

17 children under 1 year of age died during the year at the rate of 104·93 per 1000 of births registered, this is above the average for the last 9 years, which was 101·96, but compares favourable with 106, the average for England and Wales. I consider the Infantile Mortality rate not unsatisfactory when you take into consideration the scarcity of births.

TABLE 2.

The causes of the Mortality from all diseases will be seen in the following table.

Measles	5
Whooping Cough	1
Croup	1
Diarrhœa	1
Enteritis	6
Gastritis	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	10
Cancer	14
Bronchitis	6
Pneumonia	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	2
Premature Birth...	2
Heart Diseases	26
Accidents	2
All other causes	53

I have in previous reports drawn your attention to the deaths from Tubercular Diseases, and recommended a system of voluntary notification and the provision of a Sanatorium by the County Authority. I am glad to be able to report that you have sent resolutions to the County Council approving of a scheme propounded and recommended by that body. If such a scheme is carried out, notification will undoubtedly be enforced by Act of Parliament; experience has already proved the voluntary system to be a failure. 20 deaths occurred during the year from these diseases. Measles was very prevalent among young children during the month of April; the Attendance Officer, Mr. A. Crowther kept me well informed of the progress of the epidemic; I did not consider it necessary to recommend the closure of schools; however, the Education Authority decided to do so, owing to the sparseness of the attendance; the Infant Departments, where alone the disease prevailed, were thoroughly disinfected and cleansed. On resumption of school no further cases occurred, unfortunately the disease caused 4 deaths.

The deaths from Cancer and Heart Diseases occurred of persons, generally speaking, far advanced in life.

TABLE 3.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...				5		1	
Erysipelas ...			1		1	10	
Scarlet Fev'r			3	8	3	1	
Enteric F'v'r				1	1		
Phthisis ...					2	4	
Totals ...	41	—	4	14	7	16	—

Most of the cases of Diphtheria seemed to originate in an unhealthy class-room in South End Infants' School; this received prompt attention by the Education Authorities, and no further cases have been reported. For the treatment of these cases, Autitoxin has been provided by your Council, for some years past, free of charge to poor people, on application by the Medical Attendant. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

As you will see 15 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified most of them were of children attending the Lower Edge School; the disease was of a comparatively benign type and attended by no fatal issue.

TABLE 4.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths Under One Year of Age		Deaths at All Ages Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of non-residents registered in district	Deaths of residents registered beyond district.	Deaths at All Ages	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'd	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	10,400	203	19·51	30	147·78	155	14·90	0	0	9	164	15·76
1901	10,412	216	20·74	31	143·51	135	12·96	0	0	5	140	13·44
1902	10,450	235	22·48	22	93·66	142	13·58	2	2	4	144	13·77
1903	10,450	225	21·53	17	75·55	139	13·30	3	2	5	142	13·58
1904	10,490	232	22·11	19	81·89	149	14·20	3	3	5	151	14·39
1905	10,490	183	17·44	18	97·81	110	10·48	2	2	10	120	11·43
1906	10,490	230	21·92	22	95·65	144	13·72	0	0	10	154	14·68
1907	10,512	179	17·02	19	106·14	111	10·55	0	0	23	134	12·74
1908	10,550	202	19·14	20	99·01	107	10·14	0	0	16	123	11·65
1909	10,550	178	16·87	14	78·65	106	10·04	0	0	17	123	11·65
Averages for years 1900-1909.	10,479	208·3	19·87	21·2	101·96	129·8	12·38					
1910	10,550	162	15·35	17	104·93	137	12·98	0	0	17	154	14·59

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water		1,992
Total Population at all ages	10,412	At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	2,452	
Average number of persons per house	4·34	

The Milk supply is well looked after and all samples sent to the Public Analyst have been declared genuine. The Dairies and Cowsheds have also received constant attention, as you will see by reference to the Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

The whole district is supplied with water, potable and sufficient, and the samples analysed have been found free from contamination by lead.

Housing—Town Planning Act.

I feel sure that Mr. John Burns before drawing up this Act must have visited Elland, the second "Garden of Eden," if not in person, certainly in spirit. We have been engaged here for many years in laying out new streets and buildings in accordance with the Bye-Laws; the erection of back to back houses has not been permitted for years. We have our Spacious Recreation Ground and Park with various other open spaces; Public Baths elaborately fitted up and well managed, attracting, as they do, customers from all the surrounding towns. We have also our up-to-date Fire Brigade; Ambulance Society, with all necessary appliances; and lastly a Public Mortuary. What more can anyone wish for?

Sewage Disposal and Sewerage.

For the better prevention of River Pollution, all our Sewage is treated by precipitation and land filtration, and the refuse of the town is effectually destroyed by fire in our Refuse Destructor. The Scavenging and removing of all town's refuse is carried out by the Sanitary Staff. Various sewerage extensions have been carried out during the year, notably at Upper Edge, completing the sewerage of that district. I have for years been drawing your attention to the lack of sewers at Lower Edge. This improvement has been long delayed owing to land subsidences, these have now ceased, and I am glad to report that your Council has already approved plans for the drainage of this locality and that the scheme will be proceeded with without delay.

Sanitary Conveniences.

In a letter dated the 22nd of December, 1910, from the Local Government Board, questions were asked as to nature of the sanitary conveniences in this district and the numbers—

(*a*) Of the houses.
(*b*) Of the fresh and waste Water Closets.
(*c*) Of the Privies with moveable receptacles.
(*d*) Of the Privies with fixed receptacles.

Since this letter was read, the Sanitary Inspector has made a special inspection of the district, with the following result—

(*a*) 2747.
(*b*) 1437 houses with fresh or waste Water Closets numbering 1161.
(*c*) 427 houses, privies with moveable receptacles 266
(*d*) 918 houses with privies with fixed receptacles 533

The discrepancy in the figures of the total number of houses, is accounted for, by some houses being counted twice as being provided with both water closets and other conveniences.

Your Council does not permit the erection of sanitary conveniences other than Water Closets in new buildings.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

12 Factories and 14 Workshops have been inspected during the year, the drainage of one Workshop was found deficient, this has been remedied. In the case of another Workshop, the sanitary accommodation was found defective, this has also been attended to. In the case of one factory, referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories, for defective sanitary accommodation to be dealt with under the Public Health Act, the matter is still under the consideration of the Sanitary Committee.

The Underground Bakehouses have been reduced to three, these, after inspection have been again registered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. N. DENNING, M.D.,

March 20th, 1911. Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Elland.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1910.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL, ASHES, &c.

Month.	To Destructor	To Tips and on Land.	Van loads of Nightsoil
January	91	56	28
February ...	126	35	28
March	231	41	32
April	160	65	31
May	114	52	28
June	174	64	32
July.....	109	44	31
August	159	45	28
September...	116	60	35
October	118	35	28
November ...	212	68	28
December ...	128	38	35
Total loads	1738	603	364

Cowsheds.

The following are the defects found :—

Choked Drains	1
Insufficient Air Space	2
Large Accumulation of Manure ...	1
Liquid Manure Tanks over-flowing	1

Sewer Extensions.

A 6 in. Sewer has been laid in Dodgson Street, a distance of 140 yards.

Also a 6 in. Sewer across the fields at Upper Edge to drain 20 houses which previously drained into cesspools, and on to the surface of the fields.

Conversion of Privies.

Insanitary Privies converted on to the Water Carriage system :—

Year.	W.C's	Tipper	Total.
1903	14	8	22
1904	48	29	77
1905	110	12	122
1906	52	16	68
1907	33	1	34
1908	47	5	52
1909	43	5	48
1910	31	—	31
	378	76	454

Summary of Sanitary Conveniences in the District.

No. of Houses Served.	Description of Convenience	Number
918	Privies	533
427	Tubs	266
959	W.C.'s	772
478	Tipper Closets	389

Summary of Nuisances, Visits, &c. during 1910.

Tipper Closets out of order	19
Choked W.C.'s	20
Sink Waste Pipes not disconnected	61
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	5
,, Traps	1
,, Soil Pipes	1
Defective and Choked Drains	8
Insanitary Privies	32
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	3
Houses not connected to Sewer	4
Gullies inside House	2
Back Yards in bad repair	1
Ash Pits without doors	3
Offensive Manure Heaps	3
Houses Disinfected	36
Smoke Observations taken	35
Notices and Letters served	96
Number of Visits with respect to Nuisances ...	652
,, ,, ,, Infectious Diseases	50
,, ,, ,, Cowsheds	114

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. W. TILLOTSON.

March 20th, 1911.

TABLE C., 1910.

ELLAND URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Water Supply—

Any development during 1910?—Saddleworth Road 4 in. to 6 in., 680 yards.

Developments still needed?—Park Road.

Any complaints as to—

(*a*) Insufficiency?—No.
(*b*) Unsatisfactory Quality?—Dirty at times.
(*c*) Plumbo solvent action?—Nil.

Sewerage—

Developments during 1910?—6 in. Sewer in Dodgson Street, 140 yards, and a 6 in. Sewer at Upper Edge, 160 yards.

Developments still needed?—Church Lane, Lower Edge.

Sewage Disposal—

Any complaint as to outfall works?—No.

Scavenging

Any inadequacy, and where?—No.

By-Laws and Regulations—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1910?—No.

Adoptive Acts—

Any steps taken for the consideration, adoption, or application of:—

(*a*) Notification of Births Act, 1907—No.

(*b*) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Adopted.

What Sections—Parts 2, 3, 5. 6, and sections of parts 4 and 10.

Regulated Buildings Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. on register	Total No. of insp't'ns made.	General Condition.	Legal proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—		
Canal Boats	7	7	2	Good	
Slaughter Houses ...	8	8	24	Fair	
Cowsheds	38	53	114	See Report	
Milk Purveyors	25	25	—		
Offensive Trades ... ... (please specify nature)	6	6	18	3 Tripe boiling 1 Soap boiling 1 Oil Extractor 1 Bone Boiler	

Cowsheds—

Any special inspection made during 1910—Inspected periodically.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of Dairy Cows?—None.

Infectious Disease—

Any suspected spread by rats, dogs, cats, fowls, flies or fleas?—No.

What arrangement for supply of Antitoxin?—Been supplied free for years.

Isolation Hospital—

Any observation on adequacy or efficiency?—No.

Is any part used for other purpose than that originally intended?—No.

Schools—

Any investigations undertaken by M.O,H.?—Yes.

Prevention of Consumption—

What system of notification?—Voluntary.
Its success?—Unsuccessful.
What arrangement for treatment of Patients on sanatorium lines?—None.
Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses?—Yes.
Any Disinfection of ditto?—Yes, after death or removal.
Any distribution of advice?—Yes.
Any Action *re* Spitting?—Pamphlets issued.
Any Disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, etc.—Yes

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act—

At present under consideration by the Sanitary Committee.

Are there any working-class dwellings erected by the Sanitary Authority?—No.

Any special activity in house building?—Yes.

Number of new houses built during 1910?—58.

General Character?—Through.

Infantile Mortality—

What organised effort to control it?—Mothers instructed by pamphlets.

Is Health Visitor appointed by S.A.?—No.

By other body?—Yes.

Nuisances—

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1909—36.

At close of 1910—45.

Reported during 1910—163.

Abated during 1910—118.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for abatement of Nuisances during 1910—5.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1910—22.

Trapped—22.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1910—83.

Kinds—82 W.C.'s, 1 Waste Water Closet.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1910—31.

Kinds—W.C.'s

Miscellaneous—

Mean Temperature for 1910— ———

Rainfall—30·37.

What Mortuary accommodation—

(*a*) For Accidents, etc.?—Provided.

(*b*) For Infectious Cases?—Not found necessary.

No. of Burial grounds—4.

Any need for extensions?—No.

Seizures of Unsound Food—None.

Prosecutions—None.

No. of Samples of Food and Drugs analysed in 1910—10.

Prosecutions—None.

No. of Smoke observations taken—35.

Legal Notices—1.

Summonses—None.

Births during 1910—

Males—83.
Females—79.
Total—162.
No. illegitimate, included in above—3.
Number of Still Births (not included)—No record.

Deaths during 1910—

(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.* Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—137.

(2) Nett Deaths, on which the rates are calculated—Males---84---Females---70---154.

Number uncertified, included in above---Nil.

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health.

See text of Report.